

3-6-65 Co Post

U.S.-Soviet Development Projects Urged by Fulbright to Ease Tension

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Sen. J. William Fulbright
(D-Ark.) last night urged East-West experiments in "practical cooperation" on specific joint ventures as a means of reducing cold war tensions.

In lieu of "grandiose postures" and emotion-charged East-West showdowns on central political issues, he said, the United States and Russia could develop the "habit" of cooperation in limited areas.

Specifically, he proposed that the two countries, under the auspices of an international agency, work together on some development project they both favor in some other country, such as India.

Or, he said, they could help build and operate a new Panama Canal, as well as run the present one, as part of an "international consortium." The consortium, he suggested, should include Panama, the United States, and canal users such as Russia.

"Cooperation, like conflict, tends to feed on itself," said Fulbright. "An initial, tentative venture in East-West cooperation in aid could lead to another bolder venture and in time to a genuine broadening of the area of common interests . . ."

He said eventually it could lead to Communist membership in the international lending agencies and even to multilateral global help to the poor countries from the rich countries.

Fulbright's remarks, titled "Approaches to International Community," were prepared as a speech to be delivered last night at Pennsylvania State

University. Bad weather forced the Senator to cancel his appearance, but he released the text anyway.

Fulbright took the view that if there is to be peace in the modern world it is more likely to be achieved through shared values, mutual sympathy and broad common objectives than on "grand designs" based on strictly national interests.

He put it this way:

"If there is any key to survival and security in the nuclear age, it lies not in new and improved international peace-keeping organizations nor in elaborate schemes for disarmament and disengagement, but in the personal attitudes of nations and their leaders, in their willingness to place the common requirements of humanity over the conflicting aspirations of nations and ideologies."

Fulbright said there is "little promise and considerable risk" in trying to force settlements on such emotional issues as disarmament and German reunification. Though both are important, he said, it is still possible if no progress is made on them to seek other means of curbing international tensions.

Fulbright was critical of both the United States and the Soviet Union for their near showdown in the United Na-

tions over the failure of the Soviet Union and France to pay their assessed contributions for U.N. peacekeeping operations. He said this country's legal position was strong, but in insisting on enforcement of Article 19 that position lacked "political realism and historical perspective."

"All that can be said in favor of the two great powers is that they stopped short of a showdown that might have wrecked the United Nations," he said.

As one means of easing international tension, Fulbright suggested normal trade with Russia in nonstrategic goods "involving neither special favors nor special discrimination." He said the value of such trade could be exaggerated, but it could help establish "one of the preconditions for active forms of cooperation."

Fulbright first proposed Russian participation in internationalized operation of the Panama Canal a year ago.

"There would be no threat to the security of the Canal in Soviet participation," he said last night. "On the other hand, participation in an international canal company could be an extremely useful experience in international responsibility for the Soviet Union—and for all other participants as well."